

## **BLESSED OR CURSED?** **Deuteronomy 28**

### **FROM PASTOR MARK**

Ancient Near Eastern Treaty form included blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. God used them as motivation to their relationship. The blessings meant they would enjoy life in the land. The curses would progressively undo the good life in the land, ending with exile and return to Egypt as slaves and even worse, as no one would buy (28:68). **All of this prepares the way for our need of the Savior.**

#### **I. THE COVENANT NATION WAS BLESSED FOR OBEDIENCE (28:1-14).**

- A. Summary (1-2, enjoy life in the land)
- B. Six Initial Blessings (3-6)
- C. Details of Blessings (7-14)
  - 1. Blessings over Other Nations (7, military; 12b-14, financial)
  - 2. Blessed Crops and Families (8, 11-12)
  - 3. Blessed Relationship with God (9-10)

#### **II. THE COVENANT NATION SUFFERED FOR DISOBEDIENCE (28:15-68).**

- A. Summary (15)
- B. Six Initial Curses (16-19)
- C. Details of Curses (20-68)
  - 1. Disease (20-22, 27-29, 34-35)
  - 2. Drought (23-24) and Other Crop Failure (38-42)
  - 3. Defeat (25-26, 43-48)
  - 4. Disaster (29-33, frustration, 36-37)
  - 5. Dehumanization (48-57)
  - 6. Dispersion
    - a. Reversal of Covenant Blessings (58-63)
    - b. Exile (64-67 with accompanying terror)
    - c. Reversal of Exodus (68)

#### **III. WE NEED JESUS!**

- A. Our Savior Bore the Curse of Our Sin and its Horrors (Romans 3:19-25).
- B. Our Savior Sanctifies Us as We Trust in Him (Galatians 6:7-8, Jer. 17:5-8).

**God cares about you and desires a relationship with you, made possible through Jesus.**

**FOR NEXT TIME**—Read Deuteronomy 29, *Prone to Wander*

**TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:**

1. How do the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28 show that God wanted a love relationship with His people under the Old Covenant.
2. In what ways were the “Curses” of Deuteronomy like warning lights on the car’s dashboard?
3. In what ways can you think of that the nation of Israel suffered because of disobedience?
4. Read Romans 3:19-25. How do the blessings and curses of the Old Covenant in Deuteronomy 28 give you a fresh appreciation of Jesus and the New Covenant?
5. Read Galatians 6:7-8. How do natural consequences provide incentives to obey God in life?
6. Jeremiah 17:5-8. How does God promise to provide spiritual blessings to those who trust in the Lord and chastening to those who trust in human strength.